Mutual Fund for Small Scale Industries

2253. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIA :
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any representations have been received by Government for setting up a separate mutual fund for the Small Scale Industries;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) and (b) The All India Manufacturers' Organisation (AIMO) in a Memorandum submitted to the Government suggested *inter alia* setting up of a Mutual Fund with an initial contribution of Rs. 10,000 crores to make available working capital to the Small Scale Industries sector.

(c) Under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Act, 1992, SEBI is empowered to register and regulate the working of collective investment schemes including Mutual Funds. The Memorandum received from the AIMO has been forwarded to SEBI.

Financial Stringencies faced by States

2254. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some State Governments have brought to the notice of the Central Government the financial stringencies being faced by them;

(b) if so, the names of these States; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some States like Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Punjab and West Bengal have intimated that they are facing financial stringencies during the current financial year.

(c) Transfers of resources to States are made on the recommendations of the Finance Commission and the Planning Commission. The State's entitlements are released on monthly/quarterly basis or reimbursed on the claims filed by the State Governments. States in overdraft are advised to take steps to come out of the overdraft. When the overdraft persists, State's entitlements are also pre-poned to assist them in coming out of overdraft.

Unutilised Foreign Loans

2255. SHRI MONINDER SINGH LATHER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 194 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th November, 1992 and state.

(a) what are the details of the loans taken from foreign financial institutions and various countries which remained unutilised during the last three years, institution, country and year-wise;

(b) what are the reasons therefor in each case;

(c) what is the amount of interest paid on unutilised loans and;

(d) what steps have been taken by Government to ensure the full utilisation of foreign loans ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) A statement showing country-wise and institution-wise details of undrawn balances of external assistance as on 31-3-1990, 31-3-1991 and 31-3-1992, is attached (*See below*).

(b) External assistance is provided on projects which are implemented over a period of approximately 5 to 7 years. The undrawn portion of a loan at the end of the one year is carried forward to the next year and does not lapse until the closing of the project.

(c) No interest is payable on the unutilised portion of the loans. However, com-